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Hongkong, 16th June, 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1888.

CHOLERA.

Another sad death from cholera occurred last night, the latest European victim being a nurse to Mrs. W. G. Brodie, who succumbed after a few hours illness. After two or three official heads of departments or influential *l'hommes* have been carried off, we may expect the Government to recognise the fact, patent to everybody else, that Asiatic cholera of a virulent type is sweeping through the colony with deadly effect—but not till then. An obscure teacher of music, a blue-jacket or two, or a humble nurse girl, apparently count for little with the official powers that be. What are the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board about that they do not arise to their indignation and protest against this sham being kept up any longer? When threatened with a deadly danger, the safest policy is to recognise its existence and combat its evil influence with all the means available. This simple truism must be admitted even by the official phalanx. And yet, although cholera has been committing deadly ravages amongst the population for weeks past, the Government even now refuses to acknowledge its existence, or to initiate any measures for its prevention or eradication. How long?

TELEGRAMS.

THE ROYALISTS IN FRANCE.
London, June 24th.
Monarchist banquets have been held in Paris at which the King was toasted and Royalist banners were paraded.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The performance by Mr. Wain Norton's famous World of Wonders, advertised for this evening, has been postponed till to-morrow, the 27th inst.

A COMPANY has been formed in Berlin to manufacture electrical watches. Two small cells and a small electric-motor take the place of the ordinary movement.

A REGULAR meeting of Victoria Lodge, No. 1026, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire inform us that the Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Ajar*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for this port on the morning of the 24th inst., and may be expected on the 30th.

THERE are in Spain 501 coal mines comprising a surface of 29,780 hectares, worked by 75 engines totalling 2,500 horse power and by 2,500 miners, who during 1886 have extracted 950,000 tons, of the value of pesetas 9,000,000, or about \$180,000.

WE are requested to state that owing to the unpropitious state of the weather, the opening performance of Mr. Woodyear's Circus at Bowington, which was to take place this evening, has been postponed. Due notice will be given of the opening night.

THIS is truly an age of iconoclasm. A cold-blooded scientist now comes forward to say that the old oxen buckley celebrated in song and story is simply an iron-bound death dealer, a condensed mass of nitrogenous and phosphatic filthiness, and the home of the microbe and bacteria.

OSCAR Wilde has had his dining-room and all the furniture in it painted white, for the reason that "dead white is the only background against which a man looks picturesque in evening dress."

A SCIENTIST wants people to remember "when they drop a tear they let fall a mixture composed of water, salt, soda, phosphate of lime, phosphate of soda, and mucus." They can go on crying all the same.

EXTENUATING circumstances—She—You ought to be ashamed of yourself, for shooting such a dear little bird! He—Oh, what a good idea! That was very thoughtful of you, John.

THE late Duke of Rutland had at Belvoir a "lecture book" in which the Princess of Wales, recorded that her favorite artist was Rubens, her favorite author Dickens, and her favorite ambition non-interference in other people's business.

THE works in connection with the new light-house on Cape Melville in Balabac, Philippine Islands, are progressing towards completion. The Spanish Government have also ordered the building of lighthouses at Cagayan in Sooloo and on the south coast of Mindanao.

ENGLISH newspapers speak of a scheme for an insurance company which shall write policies only on buildings, or their contents where the electric light is exclusively used. Rates below the current terms for fire insurance will be the inducement offered to change from gas to electricity.

A STORY is being told about a well-known press-man, who is a devout Catholic. On a recent fast-day, he went into a hotel and called for some boiled cod. "We have no cod to-day, sir; only steak, roast beef, and some game," said the waiter. "Well," said —, "you may bring me a steak, but St. Peter knows I asked for fish."

"I-I-I," said the patient, "I believe there's something wrong with my stomach." "Not a bit of it," replied the doctor, promptly; "God made your stomach, and he knows how to make them. There's something wrong with the stuff you put into it, may be, and something wrong in the way you stuff it in, and I'll tramp it down, but your stomach is all right."

TWO Chinese grass-cutters were sent to gaol for 14 days, with hard labour, by Mr. Sercombe-Smith this morning, for trespassing on ground belonging to the War Department at Belcher's Bay battery. Considering that these poor wretches had done no actual harm, and moreover had permission from one of the watchmen to cut the grass, the sentence reads like a piece of wanton barbarity.

WE read in a Sydney contemporary that Bush, the half-caste athlete, has gone over to his ancestors, the native king of Nauru (Nauru), where his boyish days were passed; those who shouted loudly when he made his famous leap of 25 ft. 4 in. at Botany cared little how he died.

RETURNED travelers in Germany speak of the jealousy with which the German authorities guard the new magazine guns distributed among the soldiers of the army. Every gun is numbered and registered, the soldier must not take it from the garrison under any circumstances, save when on parade, and he must be able to produce it at a moment's notice. All this is to prevent the "leakage" from securing one to use as a pattern.

THE French are becoming alarmed at the influx of foreigners into their country. In 1866 the total population of France was 37,412,028, of whom 635,495, or 1.69 per cent, were foreigners. In 1886, or twenty years after, the number had declined to 37,103,589, and the foreigners had increased to 1,115,214, or about 3 per cent. Of this number 482,000 were Belgians, 265,000 Italians, 100,000 German, 80,000 Spaniards, 79,000 Swiss, 36,000 British, 12,000 Austrians, and 73,000 of various other nationalities. The Germans of course, are most numerous on the borders of the Rhine, the Swiss in the east, the Belgians in the north, and the Italians in the south and south-east. In the departments at the foot of the Pyrenees the Spanish element reaches to 75 per cent. of the population. In 1886 there were 235,519 foreigners in Paris; and in London 300,000 who had not become naturalized.

SUM Sze aged 35; a bricklayer, was today charged before Mr. Sercombe-Smith by a married woman named Ip-Akin with burglariously breaking into her dwelling house and stealing therefrom 6 pieces of silk clothing valued at \$16. Complainant said she lived at No. 3 Tuk On Lane, on the ground floor, and at 11 o'clock last night on going to bed, she put at the head of her bed a bundle of clothing which she had been working at for a tailor's shop. Just after 2 o'clock this morning she woke up to do some sewing, and at once perceived the bundle. She called to her mother, who was sleeping close by, to strike a light, and then searched about, when on getting to the cockloft she there saw the accused hugging the bundle of clothes. On calling out "thief" he ran down stairs and was arrested by the night-soil collector. The mother of the complainant corroborated. Defendant's story was a horse of quite another colour. He said that he went to Tuk On Lane by appointment with the complainant, and this morning the two of them were found together, billing and cooing in the loft, by the lady's mother. Feeling ashamed at being discovered by her maternal relative, his amorous partner called out "thief," and he then "cleared out," but did not steal any clothing. Evidence having been given by two co-accused regarding defendant's escape from the house, his Worship, sentenced the hapless lover to six months hard labour.

WE hear from Macao that two marines of the Portuguese garrison 700 were seized yesterday with choleraic attacks, and that one of them has succumbed to the fell disease.

THE artesian well which has been in course of construction at the Place Hébert, Paris, for the past twenty-two years, has just been completed. The water bed lies at a depth of 784 yards from the surface of the soil. Paris now possesses three artesian wells, viz., at Grenelle, Passy, and the Place Hébert. The well of Passy yields 5,500,000 gallons of water per day.

"As Peter sat at heaven's gate,
A maiden sought permission,
And begged of him if not too late,
To give her free admission.
"What claim, hast thou to enter here?"
He cried with earnest mien.
"Please, sir," said she, "twixt hope and fear,
I'm only just sixteen."
"Enough," the hoary guardian said,
And the gate wide open threw;
"That is the age when every maid
Is girl and angel too."

THE sudden and severe thunderstorm, which broke over Hongkong last night and continued till this afternoon has caused considerable damage. The large new tent erected at Bowington, in which the members of Woodyear's Circus were to open to-night, was blown down, though not so much injured as to prevent its re-erection. As soon as the weather improves, Queen's Road Central is blocked from the Clock Tower to Ice-house Lane, owing to the discovery of large cracks in the verandahs of Marine House, now occupied by the Telegraph Companies and a furniture dealer. The front has been shored up, and no vehicles are allowed to pass. At the bottom of Peel Street, near the Stag Hotel, a large sewer burst, causing a large hole in the centre of Queen's Road. At Ship-street near the Seamen's Club, the rush of water brought down a great quantity of gravel, making the road almost impassable. Part of the Tung Hing theatre fell. It is reported that two landladies have broken a bridge on Magazine-road, which is blocked.

In Plantation-road, just at the place where a corporal of the 58th Regiment narrowly escaped being buried by a fall of earth a short time ago, another fall occurred, the debris covering the road. Above the Tramway line, not far from the top, there has also been a landslide, but the line is not at all affected. The lightning does not seem to have done much damage at the Peak, although it was very vivid there. The telegraph wires on the Pokfulam side were cut, and a constable at the police station, when at the telephone, received a shock, which almost threw him down. The hillside was everywhere intersected with silver threads, where the small torrents rushed down the slopes. The harbour was muddy half-way across, from the delta of discharged drains. This morning the Chinese were to be seen all over the native quarter discharging long strings of crackers to propitiate the rain-gods, the streets being littered with fragments of fireworks.

It is very interesting to read the opinions of public and prominent men on the abilities and peculiarities of their compatriots, and the world has lately been favoured with a publication of the letters of Sir Henry Taylor, who, as an octogenarian, a poet, and a writer of no mean order, went to the land of the dead not half a dozen years ago. He was one of those "men of the time" who, though meddling neither in politics nor in any of the great questions of the day, yet are the leaders of public opinion and advanced thought by their manner of talking at their clubs and of writing on such subjects as those which chiefly occupied the minds of men like Carlyle, Emerson, and others of equal prominence. Taylor was the friend or the associate of such men as Wordsworth, Gladstone, Lord Grey, Aberdeen, Jeffrey, Macaulay, and Carlyle, on the latter of whom some amusing opinions from his letters have been published in the *Times*. When Carlyle went to London in 1837 and was recommended to try lecturing for a living, Henry Taylor soon came to know him, and this is what he thought of the hermit of Craignepitlock as written in letters to his friends. "He is nervous in the extreme and requires all the arts and dexterities which might propitiate a fashionable London audience. He has been hitherto much abroad in his measurements that two lectures out of the six have hardly brought him to the borders of his subject." Afterwards, on meeting Carlyle at Lady Ashburton's, Taylor says: "Less instructive talk I never listened to from any man who had read and attempted to think. His opinions are the most groundless and senseless opinions that it is possible to utter; or rather they are not opinions, for he will express the most opposite and contradictory and incompatible thoughts in the most dogmatic and violent language all in the course of half an hour. In fact he talks more brightly and forcibly nonsense than man ever did before." Writing of Tennyson in 1851, he says: "Alfred Tennyson has come to live at Twickenham, which is great gain to us. He is a very interesting person, a singular compound of manliness and helplessness—manly in his simplicity, and should think in his understanding also. Except Wordsworth, for some ten years of his life, should think he is the only really popular poet since Byron. His intellect at large, though good, is not I think, great in proportion to the imaginative and poetical elements of it; and therefore I do not anticipate that he will take any such place in poetry as was filled by Coleridge or Wordsworth; but I believe that his poetry will be felt to be admirable of its kind, and may well displace the poetry of sensibility and beauty which has gone before it in the present age. Writing of Southey he says: "He is very tired of London, being in such great request and very grand. He dined with the Duchess of Kent on Wednesday and like her very much; after dinner the little Princess (Victoria) was brought in to tell him that she had read his life of Nelson; he thought he pretty and lively."

ON the afternoon of the 25th inst. P.C. Chang Alew, while perambulating the Eastern Praya and possibly thinking in serious mood how far from happy a policeman's life is where neat-footed and white-capped cooks and house-maids are not-existent, and where cold laund cannot be got even for the asking, suddenly came across a coolie boy, aged 15, industriously hugging a basket of coal. On seeing the minion of the law approaching, the boy at once dropped his load like a hot potato, and struck a bee line for his dear place. To run away was, of course, in the mind of Cheung evidence of guilt, and the result was that the youthful Celestial had to explain to an impatient "beak" all about it, and this was his ingenious story:—I was not carrying coal; I was far off from another boy who was carrying it. The night before last I slept in a house that was being pulled down, I have no parents, the coal does not belong to me. I have been in gaol two or three times before, and was sent to a reformatory in 187 for two years. I run away two months ago. Mr. Sercombe-Smith sent this hopeful specimen to the reformatory for the term of three years.

THE Sydney *Bulletin* winds up an editorial satirising Mr. Abigail, New South Wales Minister for Mines, (who is also "boss" Director of a large "sheep-pen-shent" money lending establishment) as follows:—"Man was sent into the world to lend money on good security, that his days might be long in the conditional purchase, which he foreclosed on under mortgage, and the man who labours in this, in the face of Providence. The central point round which the universe revolves is the pawnshop, and the pawn-ticket is mightier than the sword. It is for the money-lender that the earth reserves its crowns of gold, and they are the only crowns worth fighting for—the laurel wreath of the poet sings is a valueless circle of mere leaves, and both the singer and the weaver are generally up the spout. The great statesmen of the earth pass away and leave nothing but three insolvency schedules behind them; the great warriors drag out their old age in dull obscurity, and when at last they drop into the grave, a thankless nation sends a slow, exhausted hat to collect the 'where-withal' to place a bust above their remains, as the symbol that they were 'best' during life, and that the pulchritude has followed them to the grave; the great actor and the great singer live till their voices fail them, and then they are mute, like the man who broke a blood-vessel while crying fish round the backyards of the suburbs; the wilting daisy goes pale and paralysed in both feet; the grass withereth, the flower fadeth. But the compound interest, worketh night and day, and the pawn-broker goeth on for ever. All through life he lends small sums to the widow and the fatherless and then sells them up, and when he dies he leaves a good business to his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and goes to make advances on good 'sheepery' among the stars. He is the symbol of eternity, for no one ever dies out of him and he continues the dream of even in his sleep. Therefore, *The Bulletin* speaks to the young and says, 'Go, and be a pawnbroker.'"

ONE of the most dangerous snakes of South Africa is the *spitting* snake, or spitting-snake (a variety of the *Cobra* *capensis*), which has the power of ejecting its poison as through a squirt. Its length is about 6 ft., and when angry it is extremely ferocious. This peculiarity of spitting poison has been frequently discredited, although the existence of poison-spitting snakes has long been familiar to naturalists. So writes a correspondent of the *Field*, who continues:—"A colonist whom I knew, a man of keen observation, told me that, having heard many idle tales in connection with this peculiar power, he resolved to avail himself at the first opportunity of proving their correctness or otherwise. When riding along the public road one day, he was challenged by one of these reptiles, which raised its head several inches in a defiant manner, above the low bush that it occupied. The narrator once seized the opportunity, and having a companion with him it was arranged that one should look the creature full in the face, whilst the other irritated it by throwing stones into the bush wherein it lay. This so exasperated the creature that the moment it caught sight of my informant it let fly a charge of poison, evidently aiming at the eye of its human antagonist, with the liquid of which the poison is said to infuse itself, causing death. In this instance, however, the poison, happily, did not enter the eye, owing, perhaps, to the distance (eight or ten yards); it only lodged upon the cheek-bone, about an inch below the eye, and being immediately wiped off, no injurious results followed. Next to the cobra, the puff adder (*Viper* *artensis*), of a brown colour, chequered with dark-brown and white, ranks as the most poisonous of South African snakes. It attains a length of 4 ft. or 4 ft. 6 in. Its circumference equals that of a man's arm; it has a very broad head and the tail tapers suddenly. It is indolent in its habits, and may often be heard to snore loudly at noon-day. It is safer to pass by the head than the tail of a puff adder, because it possesses the singular power of throwing itself backwards over on its tail when it wants to strike. The horned snake (*Ceratophryne*), about 18 in. in length, is also a formidable reptile. It is short, and very thick at the head, slow in its movements, and because of its shortness, it can conveniently lie in a footpath, and creep into the boots of the natives. The familiar and diminutive night adder (*Cyrtopeltis*), about 6 in. in length, is an extremely dangerous reptile, owing to its insidious habit of crawling about at night, often biting travellers when sleeping in the open. Should anyone take possession of a bush for the purpose of sleeping under its shelter, in which a night adder is concealed, the latter commences to hiss suddenly, thus providing a warning. One of his danger signs of course the hint is taken, and the danger is avoided. The bint is taken, although the bite of this small snake does not destroy life as speedily as that of the larger sort, it is nevertheless fatal."

THE Vatican has decided to condemn Henry George's books. The safety-valve of progress is to be weighted down with a Papal anathema.

THE Agents of the China Shippers Mutual Steam Navigation Company, Limited, inform us that they have received telegraphic news of the arrival of the tea steamer *Myung* in London yesterday morning.

AN immense miscellaneous store will shortly be opened at Manila, where all the commodities sold at the various shops of the city will be offered to the public, thus saving purchasers the trouble of going about town to supply themselves with their necessities. This store of bargain, will be opened to all, and its goods will be sold for ready-money and at reduced prices.

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before the Hon. J. Russell, Acting Chief Justice.)

THE "ALLIE ROWE."

The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. sue the owners of the brig *Allie Rowe* for \$9,500 for necessities supplied and repairs done, and Capt. Phillips claimed from the same defendant \$1,700 for disbursements &c. The cases were consolidated. The ship is Hawaiian owned and was docked and repaired last year by the first plaintiffs. The owners repudiated the charges, and the vessel was afterwards sold for \$1,500 which was paid into Court. Mr. Francis Q.C. instructed by Mr. Wilson, of Messrs. Wotton and Deacons, appeared for the plaintiffs.

His Lordship suggested at the outset that the proper course would be for him to have a preliminary proof of each case and then refer to the Registrar for a report, as he understood there had not been enough money paid into Court to cover both claims. Matters might otherwise arise which would make it a question of priority of claim.

Mr. Francis preferred not to go to the expense of a hearing before the Registrar, and urged that the plaintiff Company had priority of claim.

After some argument, Mr. Francis called Mr. D. van Gillies secretary and general manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. J.A. who said: "I know Captain Phillips, of the brig *Allie Rowe*. The company executed considerable repairs to that vessel in June and August last. Early in June Captain Phillips asked me what the cost of putting the vessel in the slip and surveying her would be. He was told it would cost \$300, and so sent a sheet for copying. On the 17th the vessel went into dock, and was surveyed two days later. There was no arrangement as to who should pay for the work. It was found that repairs were needed, and tenders were asked by Mr. Cook on behalf of the captain. The Company's tender was \$7,000, and the captain's was \$1,000. The captain told me he expected the money to arrive in a week or a fortnight. He never said that he would not be personally liable for the debt."

His Lordship then adjourned the case till to-morrow, saying that he would then grant an appeal for a report from the Registrar.

WARWICK v. HO AMRI.

The adjourned hearing of this case was resumed this afternoon, Mr. Webber again appearing for the complainant and Mr. Ewens for the defendant.

THE DOUGLAS CUP OBJECTION.

The objection made in January last, after the finish of the race for the Douglas Challenge Cup by Mr. Montague Beart, owner of the yacht *Kathleen*, against the winner, Mr. W. H. Forbes's *Naomi*, under circumstances which will be well within the recollection of our readers, has been made the subject of a leading article in the *London Field*, an acknowledged authority on yachting matters. As we took a somewhat prominent part in the original controversy, and did not hesitate to express an emphatic opinion that the decision arrived at by the three "experts," to whom the question in dispute had been referred, was altogether erroneous, it is only fair to these gentlemen, and also to Mr. Forbes, that we should give the same publicity to the *Field's* ruling that we gave to our own, the two being diametrically opposed to each other.

We stated the case concisely and clearly in our issue of March 12th, and the *Field* accepts that summary as fairly representing the points at issue in all material particulars. The sole question to be considered was simply—Did the *Naomi* sail under the rules? The sailing master of the *Naomi* asked for and obtained outside assistance to enable him to land the White Rocks, disqualify that vessel according to yachting law, and proceed? There were no facts at issue; the allegation that the *Naomi* had the assistance of certain persons in a steam launch was practically never denied, and therefore the only difference was a mere technicality, a point of sailing law. It was not disputed that, on her merits, the *Naomi* had won the race with consummate ease, and it was further well known that the owner of the *Kathleen* had not raised the objection in any capricious or antagonistic spirit, but purely as a matter of principle and in order to obtain a decision on what he very rightly regarded as a rather important consideration in local match sailing. The three local experts to whom, by consent of both parties, the decision was referred, simply found that the objection could not be sustained and that the Cup was fairly won by the *Naomi*, without giving the least explanation for their finding. In criticizing this decision in the article of March 12th, quoted by

the *Field*, we concluded as follows:—"Notwithstanding the conclusions and opinions of the three referees, printed above, we deliberately state that on the printed evidence alone—viz. Mr. Forbes's letter dated the 9th Jan.—the *Naomi* should have been at once disqualified for a breach of the laws of yacht racing, and our opinion will be confirmed, if the question is referred to the New York Yacht Club, the Thames, the Clyde, or any other leading yachting association." And the contrary opinion of the yachting editor of the *Field* notwithstanding, our views are still the same, and we think that with very little difficulty we can substantially prove their accuracy.

The *Field* entirely agrees with the decision of the referees in the *Naomi* case, alleging that as "no rule exists which governs such a matter," they do not see how the arbiters could have improvised a rule, and made it retroactive for the purpose of disqualifying a yacht. This appears to us a very lame conclusion to arrive at in face of the precedent quoted by our contemporary, and of the published and almost universally recognised rules of yachting. The *Field* does not see what objection can be made to outboard piloting, even if the assistance comes from persons on board a steam launch, and in defence of this opinion does not hesitate to over-ride a well-known and thoroughly established decision, and to ignore the commonsense laws of fair play which govern sport of every description. The practice, says this authority, is not likely to become common, for the reason that a pilot on board will, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, be better than one in a steam launch. After slipshod reasoning like this, we should not have been greatly surprised to have found the *Field* seeing no objection to a steam launch assisting a racing yacht with a friendly "tow" out of a belt of calm weather. And in point of fact there would seem to be very little difference indeed whether a steam launch actually towed a yacht that had for the time lost her way round a certain turning point in a race, or merely steamed on in front piloting her by pre-arranged signals. The result is exactly the same in each case, and either mode of assistance is contrary to all recognised sporting rules.

But the *Field*, while upholding the decision of the Hongkong referees, actually quotes a case in which a yacht was disqualified for obtaining outside assistance in piloting. This case, which occurred at Queenstown in 1877, is exactly on all fours with the Douglas Cup dispute now under review. The yachts in a match, like the *Naomi* and *Kathleen* in the Macao race, were overtaken by darkness; a friendly punt—i.e. the *Naomi's* case; it was a steam launch—assisted one of the craft by signaling along a bank inside her, and this one proved the winner. She was protested against and disqualified on the unwritten laws of fair play, there being no separate and distinct written rule governing the point. This precedent, it is important to note, is identical in every important detail with Mr. Beart's objection to the *Naomi*. And if there is no distinct yachting regulation that specially provides for the contingency about-board, then the rule quoted by the *Field* in referring to the Queenstown case, No. 26 of the R.Y.A., distinctly states that no other means than the lead and line for sounding are allowed. Our contemporary urges that this rule was made to prevent piloting or sweeping under the pretence of sounding with pole or ear, a conclusion we cannot but consider as exceedingly far fetched; but in any case the wording of the rule debars all outside assistance and is therefore clearly applicable to the *Naomi*. But there is another rule, No. 10 of the Sailing Rules recognised by all the leading yacht clubs, which still more expressly forbids any yacht in the course of a race accepting outside assistance. During a contest a yacht may foul any road, pier, or vessel at anchor, and be allowed to shove or warp clear without running the risk of being disqualified if assisted by any person out of the race. Here we have again the point plainly enough expressed that outside assistance to a yacht engaged in a race practically means disqualification, and yet the *Field* upholds the decision of the Hongkong referees because it considers there is no rule which governs such a matter. We leave it to all impartial persons to decide for themselves whether, with the *Field's* assistance, we have not shown that there is a very good precedent, in addition to at least two recognised rules which bear directly on the point in dispute.

Our contemporary says it is pretty certain that if a rule were required to prevent outboard piloting, it would long since have come into existence, and cannot imagine any rule which would more frequently give rise to frivolous protests than one that attempted to restrict extraneous aid in the way of piloting. But the yachting editor of the *Field* again ignores the fact that there are and always have been both written and unwritten rules forbidding a yacht to avail itself of outside assistance during a race, and further that the reason why protests against outboard piloting are rarely made, is because sailing masters, who are quite well aware that it is not allowed, never seek such assistance in a sailing match. The case of the *Cambridge* quoted by the *Field*, in which at the start of a race across the Atlantic Ocean, a fisherman was hailed and asked "how the Head of Kinale bore," is only in a very limited sense a parallel case to that of the *Naomi* at the White Rocks, that was not outboard piloting at all. If the fisherman had been in a steam launch and had gone ahead of the *Cambridge*, piloting by signals, it would have put quite a different complexion on the matter, but in reality he rendered the yacht no assistance whatever. However, no useful end would be served by further discussing what is after all a question of comparatively limited importance; it has already been thoroughly threshed out, and whatever technical views may have been formed by our local yachtsmen we think we may safely say are settled by the necessity for a similar objection to that lodged by the owner of the *Kathleen* will never again arise during a yacht race in local waters.

THE PIRATICAL RAID AT MACAO.

Our Macao correspondent, under to-day's date, gives some interesting particulars of the piratical raid on a house in that city on the night of the 24th, alluded to in our issue of yesterday. He says—

One of the most audacious attempts at plunder was perpetrated here on Sunday night, on a house in Praya, which was formerly occupied by Major Bernardo, and now tenanted by a Chinese family, the head of which is Mr. Tong King Sing, well known as promoter and manager of the China Merchants S. N. Co., who is at present at Tientsin as Director of the Kai Ping coal mines and of the Tientsin-Peking railway. A son of Mr. Tong King Sing's, 16 years of age, named Along, being on plunder he arranged his plan of campaign with a few Chinese robbers in a native inn, promising them one-fourth of the booty, the balance to be his own share. At the appointed time, about 11 o'clock on Sunday night, the robbers landed on the Praya Grande, penetrated into the premises through the front garden which adjoins the Post Office, and secured and gagged the servants. The women who were upstairs hearing the row, ran into an adjoining room and locked the door; the alarm soon spread to the neighbours, and the clerk in charge of the Central Telephone Exchange, which is in the Post Office buildings, sent messages to the barracks asking for succour, which soon arrived. An officer of the Praya Police, who was on duty on the Praya, was the first to rush to the attacked house; Colonel Ferreira da Silva, the Commander of the Police, with a few gentlemen who were spending the evening at another house on the Praya also repaired to the scene. On entering the premises, one of the robbers aimed his revolver at the Colonel, but his weapon falling to the ground in the nick of time, the shot was not fired. Colonel Ferreira then rushed upon his antagonist sword in hand, and inflicting severe wounds on the culprits, extended about six inches. Colonel Ferreira fell unconscious from the severity of the wound and had to be conveyed to the hospital. Two detachments of police had by this time arrived and advanced towards the door of the room where the robbers had taken refuge, when suddenly this door flew open and several sharp volleys were exchanged between the robbers and the soldiers. One of the Water Police was shot through the abdomen, and two others of the military police were wounded, while on the side of the robbers, two were found dead on the stairs, one bullet wound and bayonet thrusts on his side, while the other, another was pursued by the soldiers as far as San Doming Street where he was shot and died, and a fourth, who fled to the door, was very nearly secured by the reality of his trick, as the soldiers pounded him down with the butt ends of their muskets; he is now in prison. Colonel Ferreira's desperate opponent is in hospital covered with wounds, and with a broken leg.

All the dead have been buried and much sympathy has been shown to the deceased policeman. Along, the originator of all the mischief, was apprehended and taken to the Magistrate's yesterday, where he confessed his guilt. His confession, on being compared with that of the wounded robber in the Gaol, was found to correspond in every detail. Colonel Ferreira is doing well at the hospital, although the doctors have forbidden all visitors. The two wounded policemen show no signs of recovery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE HONAN-RELIEF FUND.

SIR, I beg to send you the following list of contributions received from the Agents of the On Tai Insurance Company, Limited, and forwarded by me to Shanghai for the relief of the Honan sufferers, from the 17th January up to the 24th inst., and shall be glad if you will give it publicity.

Mr. Wong Chin Hing, Manila \$ 215.16
 " Chan Choy Leong, " 200
 " Nam Loong Hong, Saigon 30
 " Chan Kam Chuen, Singapore 702
 " Lowe Sit On, Sydney 3,095.86
 " Chiu Sing Kiu, Samarang 10
 " Ng Pak Wong, Tournon 27
 " Yui Lun Ching Hong, Bombay 103.72
 Messrs. Chang Choy Leong, " 4,371
 and Hui Sai Tsan, "
 Total, \$9,114.74

Yours faithfully,
 HO AMEI.

The On Tai Insurance Co., Ltd.
 Hongkong, 26th June, 1888.

OUR SOUTHERN DEFENCES.

The sham fight at the Peak on Friday evening last, or to be exactly correct, the attack on the southern coast of Hongkong and its concurrent defence by detachments of the 58th Regiment, may be taken as an indication in the mind of the Commander of the Forces of the probable movements of a powerful naval force which happened to be in the Pacific during the convulsion of a European war in which the forces of Great Britain might possibly be engaged. We do not profess to be clairvoyant, but we think how soon after the great European war, the mother country might find herself involved in the whirl of a fierce and sanguinary war; it may be left to the most superficial student of history to reckon for himself how long the last great European shindy was a-brewing, how simply it sprang into existence, and how often it has happened that the sword has been reluctantly drawn from the scabbard and when war has been forced on a nation, it has been a bitter lesson to the victors. At this juncture, the mother country knows not how soon she may be called on to maintain her national independence and to defend the flag of her home empire as well as her distant colonial dependencies with all the resources at her command. Less than two months ago we published an article on the defenceless condition of the southern shores of Hongkong, and pointed out the assumed readiness with which an attacking force might effect a landing on the coast—and thus scale the heights. Of course the idea was pooh-poohed in certain quarters as if such a thing was quite out of the question and beyond the range of possibilities, but on General Cameron putting the matter to the test on Friday evening last, we find that the attacking force, which landed near Aberdeen, actually succeeded, under the leadership of Major Ellis, in fighting its way to the top and possessing itself of the desired position. Any arguments in favour of such a night attack from two such powers as Russia or France, or from some of our allies, have already been expressed in the pages of this journal, and are drawn of course from premises which to those who have eyes and ears are indisputable and require no repetition; but as to the facilities by which the attempt would be carried out, we may quote here our own words, written on the 3rd May last in discussing the fighting abilities of H.M.S. Impregnable:—"A fleet of half a dozen ships of a hundred miles away from Government House on any given Sunday morning might readily throw 2,000 armed men ashore on the southern coast of Hongkong who could, under fair leader-

ship, be over the hills and in possession of certain points of vantage above the city, long before day-break on Monday." It is not necessary to be a naval or military expert to believe that such circumstances are possible, and indeed the military manoeuvres of Friday evening show that the defenders lost the day and that as far as mimic warfare can be made to represent the genuine article—the real sanguinary business—our predictions have been fully verified and the heights of Magazine Gap and the Military Sanatorium fell into the hands of the enemy. Many a time and oft in the course of history have such surprises been accomplished, and many a time also in the annals of our own naval and military wars have British troops effected far more so-called impossible deeds, in some cases with very small bodies of men. The Naval and Military chiefs in command on this station may be trusted to dispose of their forces in the way most suitable and certain to frustrate any such daring attempts on the part of any of our European neighbours who may have during the next war, naval forces in these seas strong enough to try their luck and thus take a copy out of our own book; but at present the southern coast and slopes of Hongkong do not appear to offer the least impediment to a landing party bound on such an expedition. The inlets of Taitam, Stanley, Deep Water and Aberdeen, Bays offer all the conveniences required, and the three or four mountain roads from all these anchorages are as convenient and clear of obstacles as the most exciting commander of an invading force could demand. There is probably not one single wall or stone building block of any kind from the sea to the Peak which the passage of a body of men might be detained or delayed, in order to give the defenders time to take up their positions, nor are there any walls or cover of any description behind which the garrison could post themselves for a determined and lasting defence. In the opinion of the late Hughenden philosopher—some of whose wise utterances have been accepted as proverbs—"It is always the unexpected that happens," and believing in this dictum for the moment as applicable to the present argument, we would again point out how desirable it is that our military and naval commanders in chief should be on the alert and in a position as secure as possible to meet all contingencies.

A JOURNEY THROUGH MANCHURIA.

A journey through Manchuria, just published by Longmans and written by that indefatigable traveller, Mr. H. E. M. James, of the Bombay Civil Service, is already "out" and has been reviewed by the London Times. Mr. James, it may be remembered, along with Lieutenant Youngblood of the King's Dragoon Guards passed through Hongkong in the early part of 1886, on his voyage from Calcutta to Northern China with the intention of exploring Manchuria, that interesting and little known country separating China from Russia. In his interesting book Mr. James says:—"We started away out of China with six carts each drawn by a wheel and two loads of a Chinese cook, a valet and a bird-stuffer. Our money consisted of 20 'shoes' of silver worth about £12 sterling apiece, with a pair of scales to weigh the change, a bill for 12 more 'shoes' on a towel in the interior, and some loose change. Before advancing very far we had to transfer our baggage from the carts to pack-mules, and to take on a fourth Chinese servant, a boy of all work. Our manner of life while the mules ruled us was regular and simple. We were up at dawn and had a cup of tea. The bedding packs were made up and we always took time to have a 'lunch' when we went off at nightfall. Then, being long of limb and fleet of foot, we used generally to precede the cavalcade, and when he found any difficulty he called a council of war. A boy guided the old leader, alongside of whom walked a man with an axe to clear away trees and brushwood. I followed half-way down the caravan, carrying my gun, but Fulford generally shot what there was, so my chief amusement was collecting plants. Youngblood and I, with his compass and a sextant, and seeing that no one had all the bestir ourselves mending or clearing the track, lifting packs off and on, leading mules over delicate places, or catching them when they strayed off the path. In the evening we made a point of dining as soon as the cook allowed us. The meal was a fragrant one—a plateful of preserved soup, some roast game and potatoes, and perhaps a pancake or plain rice pudding, made without milk or eggs, as such luxuries were not to be had; and when that was over, one of us read prayers and we went to bed inlander."

The Times says:—"The book is a most modest record of a manly travel. Its permanent value, however, will probably be due to the careful and accurate account of the little-known country which now alone separates China from Russia. The first half of it consists of a series of admirably written chapters on the physical aspects and natural resources of Manchuria, its history, people, administration, and diverse religious or faiths. It is, indeed, difficult to overestimate the importance of the great questions at this moment pending between China and Russia, or of the practical insight that it gives into the curious mixture of strength and weakness in the Chinese provincial administration. The main geographical purpose of the expedition was to find the snowy ranges which formed a conspicuous feature in the maps of Manchuria. Those ranges proved to be a curious exaggeration of a celebrated peak known as the Old White Mountain. The hills of which it forms the most conspicuous height are held sacred to the ancestors of the present Chinese dynasty, and it is a privilege to penetrate the sacred precincts. The route of the expedition, which led geographers to the Manchurian 'snowy peaks' 12,000 ft. high. Mr. James spent some time among the wild communities of sable-trappers, deer and bear-hunters, and ginseng gatherers who dwell in defiance of the law in this no-man's land. His description of the forest communities, and of the stern codes which they enforce among themselves, is alike interesting and instructive."

In the end, when the party climbed the Old White Mountain, they found that its colour was due not to snow, of which there were only a few patches in shade, but to great sheets of diatomite, a fine white sand, and other lower. The snow-covered peaks, which were the result of the diatomite, were a curious exaggeration of a celebrated peak known as the Old White Mountain. The hills of which it forms the most conspicuous height are held sacred to the ancestors of the present Chinese dynasty, and it is a privilege to penetrate the sacred precincts. The route of the expedition, which led geographers to the Manchurian 'snowy peaks' 12,000 ft. high. Mr. James spent some time among the wild communities of sable-trappers, deer and bear-hunters, and ginseng gatherers who dwell in defiance of the law in this no-man's land. His description of the forest communities, and of the stern codes which they enforce among themselves, is alike interesting and instructive."

and sectarian spirit, which gave an optimistic unreality to the views of Indian officers of the old modes of thought. If any friend of English missionary effort wishes to hear that the heathen are in hopeless darkness and that Roman Catholic missionaries are only a shade better than Pagan priests, he must not go to Mr. James for a confirmation of his views. But if he really desires to hear the truth, to be enabled to weigh the good and the evil of the native religions, and to understand the noble work which is being done, like by Catholics and Protestants in that distant part of Asia, he will learn the facts in this book. He will find the Catholic orders working on an old historic basis, treating on equal terms with the officials, at one time dignified with the title of Mandarins and closely associated with the learned and governing classes. He will discover the Protestant missionaries not less successfully, and by the time-spirit of the age, engaged as propagandists, being more actively engaged as propagandists, by the example of their own lives of the highest self-devotion. We believe that the impartial accounts, which Indian administrators of the highly-civilized modern school are thus sending home to England in regard to the actual merits of the Asiatic faiths, and the actual work done by Christian missionaries are destined to infuse a fresh reality into missionary effort. In regard to this question, as in regard to the internal relations of Manchuria, the index at the end of the volume is very valuable. It exhibits, at a glance, the materials which a trained observer has been able to collect in regard to the past and the future of this wide region, from the traditions of the aborigines, to the truth about opium, and the territorial strides of Russia."

An Important Discovery is announced in the Paris Figaro, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, and premature decay. This discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and an early grave. We learn that the Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope.

To-day's Advertisements.

VICTORIA LODGE.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, THIS EVENING, the 26th instant, at 8.30 for 9 O'CLOCK precisely. [631]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA, VIA AMOY.
 THE Company's Steamship
 "DIAMANTE,"
 Captain McCaslin, will be despatched for the above Ports, TO-MORROW, the 27th instant, at 4 P.M., instead of as previously advertised. For Freight or Passage, apply to
 RUSSELL & Co.,
 General Managers.
 Hongkong, 26th June, 1888. [632]

EMPIRE BREWERY, SHANGHAI.

"EMPIRE" LIGHT PALE ALE, IN
 EMPIRE EXTRA STOUT BOTTLES.
 THESE delicious and invigorating Products are better adapted in every respect to the requirements of this Climate than European Brands of ALE and STOUT, and are sold by the Undersigned 2½ % Cheaper.
 W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.,
 Bank Buildings.
 Hongkong, 26th June, 1888. [646]

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION, No. 286.

THE following Particulars of Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction, to be held on the spot, on
 MONDAY,
 the 2nd day of July, 1888, at 4 P.M., are published for general information.
 By Command,
 FREDERICK STEWART,
 Colonial Secretary's Office,
 Hongkong, 23rd June, 1888. [644]

Particulars of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on MONDAY, the 2nd day of July, 1888, at 4 P.M., by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of Two Lots of CROWN LAND, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 Years.

No. of Registry	No. of Building Lots	Locality	Boundary Measurements	Contents in Annual Upset
1	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
2	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
3	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
4	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
5	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
6	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
7	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
8	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
9	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
10	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
11	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
12	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
13	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
14	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
15	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
16	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
17	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
18	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
19	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
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73	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
74	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"
75	1	East of Signal Station, The Peak	100' 0" x 100' 0"	100' 0" x 100' 0"

To-day's Advertisements.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION, No. 287.

THE following Particulars of Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction, to be held on the spot, on
 TUESDAY,
 the 3rd day of July, 1888, at 4 P.M., are published for general information.
 By Command,
 FREDERICK STEWART,
 Colonial Secretary's Office,
 Hongkong, 23rd June, 1888. [645]

Particulars of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on TUESDAY, the 3rd day of July, 1888, at 4 P.M., by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of One Lot of CROWN LAND, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 99 Years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.							
No. of Registry Sale.	Locality.	Boundary Measurements.				Contents in Annual Upset.	
		N.	S.	E.	W.	Square ft.	Rent. Price.
1	Inland Lot No. 1148 Salepore.	20 feet.	20 feet.	45 3/4 feet.	45 3/4 feet.	905	\$ 16 450

